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May 9, 2000

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Geoff L. Sutcliffe
FROM

3
PAGES (WITH COVER)

2712
REFERENCE NUMBER

10172/184506
MATTER NO.

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The "Received" stamp of the Patent Office imprinted hereon will acknowledge facsimile receipt of:
Applicant: Charles R. Bobo, II
Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR STORING,
DELIVERING, AND MANAGING MESSAGES
Serial No./Docket No.: 09/186,595 10172/184506
Filing Date November 5, 1998

PAPERS SUBMITTED:

1. PTO/SB/21 Transmittal Form;
2. Request for Withdrawal of Notice of Abandonment.

Date: May 9, 2000
By: Geoff L. Sutcliffe, Reg. No. 36,348

Customer No. 23370

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Charles R. Bobo, II

Serial No. 09/186,595 Group Art Unit: 2764

Filed: November 5, 1998 Examiner: T. Peeso

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR STORING, DELIVERING,
AND MANAGING MESSAGES

Received

JUN 4 - 2000

Director's Office
Group 2764

OFFICIAL

Attorney Docket No. 10172/184506

Date: May 9, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
the United States Postal Service via facsimile transmission to
Thomas Peeso at 703-308-6306 on May 9, 2000.

Janie Wilkins
Janie Wilkins

Assistant Director for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT

Sir:

The Notice of Allowability mailed in the above-identified patent application did not indicate that any additional action was required by Applicant beyond paying the Issue Fee, such as submitting new formal drawings. In fact, the formal drawings that were submitted with the application were the same drawings that were issued as part of U.S. Patent No. 5,870,549. Thus, when the Issue Fee was paid on March 22, 1999, new formal drawings were not submitted. A Notice of Abandonment application was mailed on March 31, 2000, and stated the reason for abandonment as "Applicant's failure to timely file new formal drawings as required in the Notice of Allowability." Contrary to what was noted on the Notice of Abandonment, the Notice of Allowability did not indicate that new formal drawings were required.

Because of the inconsistency between the Notice of Allowability and the Notice of Abandonment, I spoke with Mr. Peeso on April 11, 2000, and inquired why the Notice of Abandonment had been mailed. Mr. Peeso said he would request that the file be transferred to

U.S.S.N. 09/186,595

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REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT

him so that he could review the application. During a conversation with Mr. Peeso on May 5, 2000, Mr. Peeso said that he still had not yet received the file but asked that this communication be submitted so that he could take some action prior to receiving the file.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the Notice of Abandonment. As explained above, the Notice of Allowability did not provide sufficient notice that new formal drawings were required. Additionally, since the formal drawings were the same drawings for U.S. Patent No. 5,870,549, it was not expected that the draftsperson would raise any objections to the formal drawings. Because proper notice had not been provided that new formal drawings were required, it was error for the Patent Office to abandon the application for that reason.

In the event that new formal drawings are indeed required, another set of formal drawings are being submitted under separate letter. The Patent Office is requested to inform Applicant whether any additional action is required beyond this Request For Withdrawal of Notice of Abandonment and the submission of the formal drawings.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff L. Sutcliffe

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